

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

OF THE

GRAND LODGE

OF THE

MOST ANCIENT AND HONORABLE FRATERNITY

OF

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GRAND LODGE.

5851.

At a Quarterly Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, held in the Hall, South Third Street, in the city of Philadelphia, on Monday, December, 2d, A. D. 1850, A. L. 5850, in ample form, the following Brethren were re-elected Grand Officers for the ensuing year, viz :

Bro. WILLIAM WHITNEY, R. W. G. M.

Bro. ANTHONY BOURNONVILLE, R. W. D. G. M.

Bro. JAMES HUTCHINSON, R. W. Sr. G. W.

Bro. ALEXANDER DIAMOND, R. W. Jr. G. W.

Brother Alexander Diamond having deceased, Brother Peter Williamson was elected to fill the vacancy, March 3d, 1851.

Bro. JOHN THOMSON, R. W. G. Treasurer,

Bro. WILLIAM H. ADAMS, R. W. G. Secretary.

TRUSTEES OF THE GRAND REQUEST.

Brothers Samuel H. Perkins, Samuel Badger, William Barger, Peter Williamson, Jacob Steiner.

5850

1850

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION

OF THE

GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia, December 27th, A. L. 5850.

Forty-six Lodges represented the Grand Lodge opened in ample form, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

The R. W. G. Master eloquently delivered the following highly interesting address.

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Past-Grand Masters, and Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge :—

BRETHREN :

Another masonic year has passed away,—we have now reached one more land-mark in our masonic journey towards eternity.

I meet you on this anniversary of St. John, the Evangelist, with sentiments of truly grateful acknowledgments to Him who is the architect of the universe, for the great prosperity enjoyed by the craft, under this jurisdiction, during the past year. Since last we met in Annual Grand Communication, many of those who were then with us have passed away, and they now sleep the slumbers of death.

In the course of human events, it can scarcely be expected that all, who are now assembled here together, will occupy seats in this Grand Lodge at the close of another year : but that some, perhaps many of us, may be summoned from these busy scenes of life to appear in the unknown regions of eternity. Whether it may be you or I, or both, is beyond human skill to foretell.

In view, then, of these sad realities, my brethren, how important is it that we should pause for a while, and each one examine his own heart and conscience, and then ask the question : Will the work, which I am endeavoring to accomplish, be approved by the Grand Master of the universe at the last great day ? What more befitting occasion than the present, could we select to form new resolutions, and to take upon ourselves fresh vows, that we will, for the future, journey through the

remainder of life squaring our actions by the square of virtue, and circumscribing our desires within due and proper bounds, with all mankind; thereby the better preparing us for an entrance into that mansion, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

When I accepted, one year since, the high and responsible situation, to which I was elevated by your unsolicited suffrages, I can truly say that I did it with great timidity, and from a fear, but too fully justified, that I should be unable to discharge my obligations to this Grand Lodge, and the jurisdiction thereunto belonging, in a manner equal to my apprehension of their extent and importance. It has pleased the members of this society to re-elect me to serve them for another year in this most exalted and important station; and permit me again, my brethren, to repeat to you my sincere pledge, that the arduous and various duties devolving on me shall be discharged faithfully, and to the best of my abilities: relying, as I shall do, on your indulgence and the counsel and advice of my brother Grand Officers, with whom I have had the happiness to be so long associated.

During the past Masonic year nothing of great importance has occurred, under this jurisdiction, which renders it necessary for me to bring to your especial notice. I would, however, beg leave here to call your attention to some few statements and occurrences which I trust may not be deemed wholly uninteresting at this time.

Our connection with our sister Grand Lodges throughout the Union is of the most harmonious character, with the single exception of that of the State of New York.

It is no doubt known to most of you, that there has existed in that State, for some years, two Grand Lodges—one called the St. John's Grand Lodge, and the other the Grand Lodge, over which brother J. D. Willard recently presided as Grand Master. The former of these Grand Lodges, this Grand Lodge never acknowledged, but, on the contrary, has invariably refused admission, as visitors, into her subordinate lodges, members hailing from under the jurisdiction of that Grand Lodge. This, I think, was right, and the only true and masonic course which we could pursue.

The other Grand Lodge was recognized by us as the only legitimate one then in existence in that State. But what have we witnessed there within the last eighteen months? In the month of June, 1849, a minority of the members of that Grand Lodge becoming dissatisfied with some of their proceedings, have rebelled and established for themselves a third Grand Lodge, and there now exists no less than what is pretended to be called, *three* Grand Lodges in that State. If such a

ed upon to recognize as many Grand Lodges in a single state as we now have districts under the jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge.

I am happy, however, to learn that arrangements have been made for a union, and to be consummated this day, between the St. Johns and the Willard Grand Lodge, over which our respected and highly esteemed brother Wm. H. Milnor now presides. I am unacquainted with the mode by which this desirable arrangement was consummated.

The accomplishment of this most desirable object will still leave two Grand Lodges in that State: and both claiming to be the true and only legitimate one which ought to exist and be recognized by us.

Since the difficulties which occurred there, at the period already alluded to, numerous statements and pamphlets have been published and sent forth to the fraternity throughout the Union; and nearly every Grand Lodge throughout this country, as well as some of the foreign Grand Lodges, have taken prompt action, and at once acknowledged the Willard Grand Lodge as the only true and legitimate one that ought to exist in that State. I regret to say, that although the subject has been properly brought before this Grand Lodge, still, all she has done has been to show a "masterly inactivity," and the result is we now either recognize both, or neither, of the two Grand Lodges to which I have especially referred. My opinion always has been, and still is, that this Grand Lodge owes it to herself and her dignity to declare by her solemn vote, that there can be but one legitimate Grand Lodge in that State, as well also as to declare which of the two she will recognize.

The applications for adjusting complaints from rejected candidates, by subordinate lodges under this jurisdiction, have been much more frequent within the last few years.

This, I regret exceedingly to learn. The ballot box in the lodge, should be used on all occasions with great care and caution; and while the greatest zeal should be exhibited at all times, that none, unless possessed of *all* the proper qualifications, should be admitted within your portals; yet, at the same time, no brother can, under any circumstances whatever, be justified in depositing an opposing ball, either through *malice, hatred, or personal spite*, against a candidate, who possesses the proper qualifications, and whose character is unstained and beyond reproach, and, it may be, is as well qualified in every respect to be initiated into our mysteries as any member who now belongs to the order. That rejections of most worthy candidates, under these circumstances, have taken place is beyond all doubt. Let me say to those brethren who may have been guilty of voting against a candidate from such unworthy motives, that he is guilty of unmasonic conduct, and is un-

worthy any longer of the name of brother. I trust that hereafter we shall hear no more complaints of this kind.

Several complaints have recently been made of the too free use of the dispensing power, by some of the District D. G. Masters, and, I fear, not without just cause. In a few cases, which have been reported to me, some of these officers have exercised powers which, in my opinion, go beyond those delegated to the Grand Master himself. I sincerely hope that these few brief remarks, on the subject, will hereafter cause all the D. D. G. Masters, under this jurisdiction, to be more cautious and not go beyond the powers delegated to them by our Constitution.

The suit which was brought some time since, against P. G. M. Fritz, Wm. Whitney, A. Bournonville, J. Hutchinson and Wm. H. Adams, by brother John Robinson, the lessee of the Chestnut street Hall, for some imaginary offence, has, after many vexatious delays, been abandoned by him; he suffering himself to be non-suited. This, with the continued impediments which he throws in our way, in collecting the rents of the Chestnut street Hall, will cause the Grand Lodge some additional expense, the amount of which is not yet fully known.

The Committee of Grand Officers, are under many obligations to Brother Remak for his valuable professional services, and the faithful and satisfactory manner in which he has discharged his duties as their counsel.

On the 1st of March last, the four stores in front of the Hall in Chestnut street, came into our possession, and will, on the first proximo, produce an income to the Grand Lodge, for the period of nine months just past, the sum of \$1800, or at the rate of \$2400 per annum. This is a large sum, and a handsome additional revenue, especially when we consider that it is derived without any outlay of money whatever by the Grand Lodge. The rent of these stores will, hereafter, be a clear gain to the Grand Lodge; and too much praise cannot be awarded to our Worthy Grand Secretary, as well as the other brethren, who approved of the idea and who wrought so zealously until they were successful in inducing the Grand Lodge to pass resolutions, whereby those stores have been constructed. The result of which is, we now derive an annual income of six per cent. on the sum of \$40,000, which before was a total loss to us.

For the adjoining lot in the rear of the Third Street Hall, we have at length succeeded in getting a deed; but as yet the matter is not fully settled. The rear or west end of the fence as now fixed being about four inches further north than the east line.

The Committee, who have the matter in charge, relative to closing the windows in Washington Hall, which look upon our property in front of the Chestnut street Hall, have not yet made any report. We ought to have had a report from them, on the subject, some months since. The additional action taken by the Grand Lodge in that matter, at their Special Communication, on Monday, the 16th instant, will, I have no doubt, prevent our rights from longer being encroached on.

The Charity fund, as per last report, showed a balance on hand of \$285 43. Out of this sum \$200 have already been appropriated. This amount has been exhausted, and as the inclement season is now approaching, I would suggest a further liberal appropriation for the relief of the distressed widow and the fatherless, out of the balance of the fund which may be reported by the Committee, as on hand at that time.

By a vote of the Grand Lodge, passed some years since, our Charity fund is to be confined exclusively to the relief of the widow and orphan and female relatives of deceased brethren. This, I think, was a wise measure ; and I sincerely hope the Grand Lodge will not soon change it.

The interest from the liberal bequest of our deceased brother, Stephen Girard, (now amounting to the sum of \$30,000) *must*, in accordance with the terms of the bequest, be confined exclusively to the relief of poor and worthy master masons ; so that we now have one fund out of which to bestow, most liberally, to our distressed brethren ; and another (though much smaller) which is confined to the relief of the widows, orphans, and female relatives of deceased brethren.

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge one year since, the question was agitated by some of the brethren, and also referred to in the address of my predecessor, but no action has since been taken, regarding the expediency of this Grand Lodge removing back to our old home, in Chestnut street, and selling the Hall which we now occupy. The financial condition of the Grand Lodge is, unquestionably, such as to enable us to make advantageous arrangements for the disposal of this property on suitable terms, and other necessary provision for removing back, and once more occupying our old Hall, (which is far more central) and that, too, without the least detriment to the interest of the Grand Lodge.

The lease on the Chestnut street Hall will expire on the 1st March. I would, therefore, recommend that a special committee be appointed at an early day, to take the whole matter into consideration and to report in writing to this Grand Lodge, as speedily as possible.

A number of proxies have been received from Lodges under this jurisdiction, and the same approved, showing the interest felt in our order and the harmony and good feeling existing between the brethren generally under this jurisdiction.

The reports from all parts of the State, represent the Institution in a most flourishing condition.

While this is very gratifying, I would admonish the brethren against a too great or rapid increase in their numbers, lest it should have a tendency to cause some to relax in their duties, and to admit to Fellowship those who are unworthy and who may bring discredit on our order. Eternal vigilance and a watchful eye should, at all times, be kept on those wishing to become acquainted with our mysteries. More danger is to be apprehended from too great and rapid prosperity in our order, than from all the opposition that can possibly be brought against us.

Repeated applications have been made by some of the brethren in the northern part of the State, for instruction in the mode of work, &c. By my especial request, brother Wm. H. Adams, accompanied by brother William S. Shultz, of 130, who kindly volunteered to take him in his own private conveyance, was induced to pay them a visit a few months since. During his stay, he visited the brethren in Honesdale, Carbondale, Tunkhannock, Pittston Ferry, Wilkesbarre, Minersville, Pottsville and Orwigsburg, and found them all in a prosperous and flourishing condition. They received him with great good feeling and brotherly kindness. He found the work in some of these lodges somewhat different from the mode practised in this city. But after a full explanation, they all promised to conform to the regulations of this Grand Lodge. The brethren manifested great satisfaction for being thus visited, and much good, I have no doubt, will be the result.

During the past year eight new Lodges have been constituted, viz :

No. 244 at Kittanning, Armstrong county.

" 245 " Doylestown, Bucks "

" 246 " Kensington.

" 247 " Mansfield, Tioga "

" 248 " Tunkhannock, Wyoming "

" 249 " Carbondale, Luzerne "

" 250 " Sharon, Mercer "

" 251 " Mercer, " "

The warrants applied for, for Cookstown, Fayette county, and Pittsburg, are still under advisement, by the Committee who have them in charge. Lodge No. 156 has been revived at Chestnut Level, Lancaster

county. The warrant of this lodge has never been vacated by the Grand Lodge, and they had only ceased their labors a few years since.

The Girard Charity Fund, under the direction of the twenty-three members, continues its steady onward course of usefulness. The sum of \$1800 was appropriated for the year ending July 1, 1851.

The balance remaining of previous years' appropriation, on the 1st of January, 1850, was \$1120. This amount added to the above appropriation of \$1800, makes a total of \$2920 for the use of the Committees for distribution up to July 1st, 1851. Up to the 1st of January, 1851, nineteen hundred and forty-five dollars of this amount has been distributed among seventy-eight applicants.

45 of these hail from our own jurisdiction, and have received the sum of	- - - - -	\$1290 00
33 hail from foreign jurisdictions, and have received the sum of	- - - - -	655 00
78		\$1945 00

which leaves a balance of \$975 to be distributed up to *July 1st*, 1851.

It is needless to remind the Brethren that the appropriations to this fund are made up to July 1st, of each year, and this accounts for the apparent large balances on hand at the first of each year.

As far as has come to our knowledge of the above number of applicants *two* have paid the last great debt of nature.

Many of the survivors are aged and infirm, and will need continued care and attention to their wants. Too much praise cannot be awarded to those Brethren who have had this matter in charge, for their diligence, care and attention. The secret satisfaction of the good done will, I trust, be a reward which, no doubt, they all feel; and my earnest wish and hope is, that they will, in the end, receive a far richer reward from Him who bestows liberally and as seemeth to Him best.

The finances of the Grand Lodge, according to the accounts furnished me by the proper officers, and made up to the 31st of the present month, exhibit the following condition :

Receipts and Balance.

Balance on hand as per report 31st December, 1849,	\$7,448 73
Received from Lodges, Chapters, city and country, } also D. D. G. Masters, for dispensations, &c., }	7,268 51
New Warrants, - - - - -	810 21
Chestnut street Hall, - - - - -	6,669 45
Dispensations, Certificates and Ahiman Rezens, is- } sued by the Rt. W. G. Master and sold in city, }	645 00
Rents Third street Hall, - - - - -	150 00
Total, - - - - -	\$22,991 92

Brought over, \$22,991 93

Payments.

Interest on mortgages Third Street Hall, } and to holders Masonic Loans, }	\$3,212 69
Payment to Sinking Fund, - -	12,158 47
Current expenses Chestnut street Hall,	52 50
Taxes on do. do.	915 53
Incidental expenses Third street Hall, } light, coal, repairs, &c., &c., }	1,208 57
Taxes Third street Hall, - - -	239 25
Constituting and visiting Lodges, -	133 07
Salaries G. Sec'y, G. Tr and G. Tyler,	1,186 50
	<hr/>
	19,106 58
Balance on hand December 31, 1850 - -	<hr/> \$3,885 35

Recapitulation.

Receipts from every source, and balance on hand at } close of last year, - - -	\$22,991 93
Payments, including \$12,158 47 to Sinking Fund,	19,106 58
	<hr/>
Balance on hand as above - - -	\$3,885 35
An arrangement is now about being made to have the greater part of this balance invested for the benefit of the Sinking Fund.	
The Sinking Fund, as per last report, amounted to } the sum of - - - -	\$15,300 00
Invested for account of that Fund since that period,	12,158 47
	<hr/>
Which makes that Fund now amount to -	<hr/> \$27,458 47
The total indebtedness of the Grand Lodge, on the } 31st December last, was - - -	\$78,401 98
Since then there has been paid off certificate of debt } amounting to - - - -	3,964 16
	<hr/>
Leaving a total debt now of - - -	\$74,437 82

To meet this indebtedness, we have the present amount of the Sinking Fund, as above stated, and to which there will probably be added very shortly about \$3,000 more, which will then make that Fund amount to upwards of \$30,000. Besides this, we also have our two very valuable properties, viz: our Hall in Chestnut street, and the one we now occupy. The former of which, at a low valuation, would far more than pay the whole debt of our Grand Lodge.

The large amount which we have been enabled to add to our Sinking Fund, during the last two or three years, exhibits that Fund at the present time in a very desirable state indeed, and if we continue to prosper for the next five years, as we have done during the past five, we shall, beyond all doubt, be enabled to increase our Sinking Fund so that it will absorb the whole debt of this Grand Lodge.

The city Lodges have *all* paid up their dues. The country Lodges have done the same, with but a very few exceptions. From the Lodges generally, under this jurisdiction, we are receiving such flattering accounts of their prosperity as to induce us to believe that few, if any hereafter, will long remain in arrears.

The brethren at Pittsburg have, I understand, at considerable expense, commenced the erection of a neat and commodious Hall, in which to hold their meetings, and they expect to have it completed and ready for dedication in the course of the coming year.

Brethren, I have already said that our institution is, at the present time, in the most prosperous and flourishing condition. I think that I may with confidence say, that at no period, within the memory of the most aged Brother now present, has our order, throughout the State, been so prosperous as we find it at the present time.

This is truly encouraging, and cannot be otherwise than most gratifying to every member who has the good of our noble and charitable institution really at heart.

This happy state of things has, in a great measure, been brought about by the wise measures recommended, and the judicious course pursued, by several of my predecessors; and, I would here say, that too much credit cannot be awarded them for the faithful discharge of their duties while occupying this exalted station.

Let us, my brethren, be truly thankful that our lot has been cast in this land of civil and religious liberty. Here all may worship the God of the universe in his own peculiar way: and here, in this consecrated spot, we may meet and, as a band of brothers, dispense our christian graces, the first of which is charity. "Oh! charity! How beautiful is thy lustre in the bosom of the Lodge." "Here may the faithful suffering brother divulge his misfortunes and make known his wrongs. No matter though a cold and unfeeling world may have heeded him not, and un pitying friends have passed him by, here he will find a balm for his wounds, a cordial to relieve the sufferings of an agonized mind."

Now, as we are about to enter afresh on our duties as Masons for another year, let us do it with a realizing sense that we are ever under the eye of Him who dispenseth light and knowledge, and from whom none of our actions are or can be hid.

In all our doings, whether in the Lodge or mingling with the busy crowd of the world, let us never depart from the plumb-line of rectitude or the level of propriety ; but, being illuminated by the first Great Light of Masonry, may we invariably be found walking within the compass and acting upon the square.

So shall we find a sweet recompense in the mutual approbation of each other, and our own consciences ; and, above all, what far outweighs every other consideration, merit the approbation and the acceptance of the Great Master Builder, to whom we must all finally render a strict account at the last great day.



The following appointments, for the ensuing Masonic Year, were announced by the Right Worshipful Grand Master :

District Deputy Grand Masters.

Bro. George B. Kerfoot, of the city of Lancaster, for the county of Lancaster.

Bro. W. B. Potts, of Orwigsburg, for the counties of Schuylkill, Northampton, and Carbon.

Bro. C. P. Gummert, of Brownsville, for the counties of Fayette, Westmoreland, and Franklin.

Bro. George C. Welker, of Sunbury, for the counties of Northumberland, Union, and Columbia.

Bro. Philip Krebs, of Lock Haven, for the counties of Clinton, Lycoming, and Centre.

Bro. Samuel Houston of Towanda, for the counties of Bradford, Wyoming, and Susquehanna.

Bro. Samuel McKinley, Pittsburg, for the counties of Allegheny and Armstrong.

Bro. Henry Pettibone, of Wilkesbarre, for the counties of Luzerne, Wayne, and Pike.

Bro. Joseph L. Stichter, of Reading, for the county of Berks.

Bro. Geo. K. Bain, of Meadville, for the counties of Erie, Warren, Crawford, and Mercer.

Bro. Bradley Mahana, of Waynesburg, for the counties of Greene, Washington, Beaver, and Lawrence.

Bro. ———, for the counties of Dauphin, Mifflin, Cumberland, Huntingdon, Blair, and Lebanon.

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Rev. Brethren, John Chambers, Peter Van Pelt, Orson Douglass, J. L. Burrows, H. W. Dueaehet, Ezra S. Ely, Kingston Goddard, J. Brinton Smith, George P. McElroy, Robert Deshea Morris.

Bro. Peter Williamson, *Senior Grand Deacon*.

Bro. D. C. Skerrett, *Junior Grand Deacon*.

Bros. Henry Bruner, and Charles Bard Reese, *Grand Stewards*.

Bro. James B. Baggs, *Grand Marshal*.

Bro. Jacob Steiner, *Grand Sword Bearer*.

Bro Wm. S. Shultz, *Grand Pursuivant*.

Bro. William B. Sehnider, *Grand Tyler*.

Trustees of the Charity Fund.

Bros. George D. Haswell, John Bradley, Wm. Conrad, Thos. E. Baxter, and James Kelly.

Committee of Finance.

Bros. Alexander E. Dougherty, George Smith, Joseph S. Riley, George H. Oliver, and Joseph R. Flanigan.

Committee of Correspondence.

Bros. George Griscom, James B. Chandler, and William H. Klapp.

Committee on By-Laws.

Bros. James Page, William H. Adams, and Robert Frazer.

Committee to Examine the Transactions of last year, and Select for Publication.

Bros. Edward P. Leseure, Wm. Clinton, and Joshua Mitchell.

Hall Committee.

Bros. Tobias Buehler, Harman Baugh, and Washington Heimberger.

Committee on Landmarks.

Bros. Bayse Neweomb, Joseph R. Chandler, and Samuel H. Perkins.

Stewards of the Stephen Girard Charity Fund.

Bros. Mathew Cartwright, David Rattenhouse, E. Barrington, Wm. E. Ewing, John Martin, E. H. Butler, E. P. Lescure, Robert McCulloch, Jacob Steiner, E. T. Mott, John McCloud, John G. Sharp, John H. Casey, Abrm. West, Townsend Smith, John Wagner, Gavin Watson, John C. Yeager, Ml. Bouvier, John Reynolds, Wm. Leach, Jacob S. Zorns, and N. H. Maguire.

Extract from the Minutes.

WILLIAM H. ADAMS, *G. S.*

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION,
OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA, June 2d, 1851.

The following report and resolution thereunto attached was read and adopted :—

The Committee of thirteen appointed under a resolution offered in Grand Lodge, in December last, beg leave to offer the following report:—

Immediately after their appointment, your Committee was called together and organized, and on the 23d of January, after fully discussing the matter entrusted to their charge, resolved to appoint two Sub-committees, whose duty it should be to report to the general committee. The one, plans for repairs and removal to the present Hall in Chestnut street ; the other plans for re-constructing a new building on the rear of the Chestnut street lot, using the old material of the present edifice, &c. &c. Said building to be exclusively for Masonic purposes.

The general Committee resolved to meet weekly, to aid in counsel the Sub-committee, and to hear their reports, &c.

On the 11th March the Committee on repairs of the old Hall made the following report, to wit :—

To the Committee of the Grand Lodge.

SIRS AND BROTHERS :—The Sub-committee appointed by you to take into consideration the expediency of repairing the old Masonic Hall in Chestnut street, and the probable expense attending the same, have given this subject their careful and thorough attention, and beg leave to submit the following report :

Your Committee is fully impressed with the importance of the contemplated step to remove to the Chestnut street Hall—a step, which meets the approval of the craft generally, but as to the execution of which there seems to be a diversity of opinion. In order to carry out the proposed removal without again increasing the debt of the G. L., and without causing dissatisfaction among the craft, your committee is of opinion that the strictest economy should be observed. The erection of a new edifice must necessarily be attended by a considerable outlay of money, at a time when the G. L. should husband her funds and endeavor to reach the desirable position of being free of debt. Actuated by these considerations, your Commit.

tee would recommend the repairing of the old Hall. It is estimated that all the repairs, including carpenter-work, plastering, painting, ventilating, &c., could be satisfactorily done at an expense of from \$4000 to \$7000. It is proposed that the upper part of the Hall should then be exclusively used for masonic purposes, whilst the lower part could be rented out at the lowest rate for about \$2500 to \$3000 per annum; thus, instead of incurring an additional debt, a surplus of upwards of \$3000 could be devoted to masonic purposes, as will appear from the following table;

Rent for the lower part of the Hall,		\$2500
Do., Stores in front of the Hall,		2400
		<hr/>
		\$4900
The whole debt of the G. L. amounts to	\$74,437 82,	
Sinking fund	\$27,000	
Cash in G. Treasurer's hands to be invested in		
Sinking Fund,	3000	
Third Street Hall,	25000	
	<hr/>	\$55,000
		<hr/>
		\$19,437 82
Interest on this sum,	\$1,166 28	
Do. for repairs, (\$7000)	420 00	
		<hr/>
		\$1,586 00
		<hr/>
Leaving a surplus of		\$3,311 00

It must be admitted that the architecture of this ancient edifice, is at once imposing and appropriate, whilst its interior is venerated by and endeared to many of the craft by the recollection of important events in the history of Masonry. But no stronger reason can be urged in favor of this proposition than the fact that it could readily be made the means of creating a "Widow and Orphan's Fund, and thus to extending the holy mission and work of practical Masonry. Brother Girard's bequest has now for years been the means of dispensing charity among worthy members of the craft, and why should not the G. L.—if it is in her power to do so—create a fund of \$30,000 for the support of widows and orphans? The plan is perfectly feasible, and will meet the hearty approval of the entire craft. In a few years the above surplus of upwards of \$3000 per annum together with the surplus income of the G. L. from the subordinate lodges, would amount to the sum of \$30,000. To accelerate this result, a five story building of 40 ft. by 60 ft. might be erected in the rear of the Hall without any outlay whatsoever, in the same manner as the stores in front of the Hall have been erected. Such a building would yield from \$800 to \$1000 per annum.

After the lapse of a few years, when by husbanding the funds of the G. L. her debts would be entirely discharged—after creating a widow and orphan's fund, (the want of which has so long been felt) Masonry in Pennsylvania would stand on a firm basis, and then it would and should be its pride to erect a splendid and costly edifice, which would be an ornament to our city, and one at which every Mason would point with the proud consciousness that whilst thousands have been expended

for the erection of a Masonic Hall, the widows and orphans of his brethren have first been well cared for.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ANTHONY BOURNONVILLE,
JAMES HUTCHINSON,
JOHN C. YEAGER.

The Committee on re-construction also made their report, which is as follows, to wit:—

Sub-report to the Grand Committee as to the expense of the construction of and removal to a new Hall.

Cost.	Loss of old Hall, Income \$4,800.	\$30,000
Loss.	Building of new one,	20,000
		<hr/>
		\$100,000
Gain—Price of Third St. Hall.	\$25,000	
Gain in Chestnut St. lots.*	20,000	
	<hr/>	45,000
Expense of going to Chestnut St.,		<hr/>
Interest of which is \$3,300 annually.		\$55,000

Probable expense of returning to the old Hall

Loss—Repairs of old Hall	\$15,000
Loss of income, \$4,800.	8,000
	<hr/>
	\$95,000
Gain—Hall in Third street,	\$25,000
	<hr/>
	25,000
	<hr/>
	\$70,000

Interest on which is \$4,200 annually.

If the lower part of the old Hall be let as now, it may yield annually \$2500; which deducted from \$4,200, gives, loss \$1,700, with the disgrace of such dances &c. as are found there now.

The present lot and buildings in Chestnut street might sell for \$100,000. But as the front lots with 80 or 90 feet depth are worth \$60,000, the cost of the back lot in Chestnut street is \$40,000, which is as little as such a lot could be had for in any convenient place.—Upon the whole we think that the question lies between *remaining in Third street or building a new Hall in Chestnut street.*

J. E. MITCHELL,
PETER WILLIAMSON,
WM. S. SHULTZ.

* It is probable that the Third street Hall will bring \$28,000, and the new lots on Chestnut street as above described, a profit of \$32,000, this would reduce the price of the back lot to 28,000 dollars.

After hearing the reports of the two Sub-committees, and fully discussing the same, the general Committee adopted the following resolution :

Resolved. That the two reports just made be referred to a special Committee of five, to take the same into consideration, and to make report to the general Committee, when Bros. J. K. Mitchell, A. Bournonville, Peter Williamson, W. S. Shultz and John Allen were appointed said Committee,

On the 14th May, said Committee after considerable labor, &c., submitted the following as their report, which was unanimously adopted by the general Committee.

Report of the Sub-Committee to which was committed the Subject of a Grand Lodge Edifice.

The undersigned, having very carefully examined the subject for which we were detailed, beg leave respectfully to report, that

The recent meetings of the Grand Lodge have shown that the Third street Hall is even now inadequate to the convenient reception of the members of the Grand Lodge, and that the rapid increase of the Fraternity must render it, every successive year, less fitted for the Grand Lodge meetings.

In addition to this growing objection, the site of the Third street Hall is becoming less and less central, as the City and Districts adjoining it extend themselves to the North, South and West; and the Brethren not only complain of the great distance from the present Hall at which a large portion of them are placed, but some of them state that they are thereby prevented from giving such attendance upon Grand and Subordinate Lodges, as they really desire.

The present financial condition of the Grand Lodge being such as to enable it to remedy these evils, by a removal to a larger Hall, and a more central situation, we would respectfully recommend a return to the ancient station of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in Chestnut street.

A careful examination of the condition of the old Chestnut street Hall, its capacities, its conveniences, and its adaptation to the present wants of the Order, has convinced us that, except as to position, it would not fulfil the purpose upon which a removal is deemed expedient. Its largest Lodge room is only, upon its floor, 174 square feet larger than the Hall in Third street, or about one-twelfth. Therefore, if two hundred Masons crowd inconveniently the present Grand Lodge room, as has been recently manifested, the Hall in Chestnut street would be made equally uncomfortable by the addition of seventeen persons; whilst the square feet upon the floor vary so little, the cubic dimensions of the two Halls differ still less, because the ceiling of the old Hall is at least three feet lower than that in Third street.

Any sum of money expended upon the refitting of the old Hall, would be so much additional impediment to the building of a larger Hall, and would also render more expensive such an enlargement of the front lots upon Chestnut street, as would enable the Grand Lodge to use them to a pecuniary benefit.

When the Grand Lodge was about to remove to Third street, the estimated expense of the proposed modifications of the new buildings was about \$1000; but the cost arose to the surprising sum of upwards of \$8000. This fact affords a strong argument against any attempt to job the old Chestnut street Hall into the *imperfect* fitness of which it is susceptible.

Seeing these things, the Sub-Committee turned their attention to the feasibility of the erection of a new Hall upon the Chestnut street lot. We did not seriously consider the question of making use of any other lot, because our old one is as advantageously situated as possible, is also as cheap as any other one properly located, and is so endeared to the Masons of this Jurisdiction, as to make it an object of the greatest importance to preserve at least the old site, since we cannot, without the greatest inconvenience, preserve the old building.

The best position for a Masonic Hall, is one in which the quietness of a retired place may be combined with the convenience and publicity of access from the most frequented streets of the city. Both are desirable; the one that the ceremonies may not, particularly in warm weather, be interrupted by the noise of the street, and the other that the members, especially our esteemed country Brethren, may easily find the Hall.

Fortunately, the extent of the Chestnut street lot enables us to recommend it as combining, in the highest degree, these two qualities. The back part of the lot is remarkably retired and quiet, whilst the entrance in front is in the most frequented and best known street of the city, which contains most of the hotels to which strangers repair, and is so conveniently related to these resorts of our country Brethren, as to make the selection of it, for our purposes, highly expedient.

Upon the rear or northern end of this lot, may be placed a large and commodious Hall, capable of properly disposing of as many Brethren as we can reasonably expect, at any Grand or Subordinate Lodge meeting. Such a building, containing within itself all the proper appurtenances of a Masonic Hall, may be erected, with the aid of a part of the old materials, and the sale of the remainder, at a cost which cannot, at the utmost, exceed twenty thousand dollars.

By this arrangement, the space upon the Chestnut street front would be so much enlarged, as to afford sites for four stores, each 20 feet in front, and 90 feet in depth, leaving a passage to the Hall of 21 feet 7 inches, or sufficient for the convenient transit of two carriages at a time.

The Chestnut street front, thus deepened, becomes much more valuable, and might be retained or sold as might appear to be the interest of the Grand Lodge. If sold, each lot would bring about seventeen or eighteen thousand dollars, liquidating thereby the entire debt of the Grand Lodge; or, if deemed more expedient, the G. L. might, at a convenient season, build these stores, and thus, by letting them to tenants of its own, control the uses to which they might be applied. In the mean time, the G. L. is not under any necessity to remove the existing stores, which pay, even now, an interest upon forty thousand dollars, but may conveniently wait the progress of events, and take advantage of favorable conjunctures.

If the G. L. should resolve to retain the Chestnut street front, the Sub-Committee cannot help hoping, that when enabled to build up that front upon a tasteful general plan, the G. L. will construct upon the reserved entrance a grand Masonic gateway

of dark sand-stone, distinguished for its symmetry, its beauty, and its Masonic ornaments—at once a mark of the site of the Hall, and a grand embellishment to the city.

Should any future exigency call for the removal of the G. L. from Chestnut street, the proposed building, with a 21 feet 7 inches lot for a store on that street, would afford, for an enterprising merchant, a splendid and most extensive place of business.

The proposed plan has the inviting feature of freeing the G. L. from the odium which it endures by the many doubtful uses to which the old Hall is now put. The Sub-Committee do not contemplate any use of the new Hall, save for pure Masonic purposes, making a temple not of vice, dissipation and immorality—but of order, charity and love—of traditions that *descend* from the grandest temple of God—of thoughts and acts that *ascend* to the throne of the Most High, in a temple not made by hands. We hope that the G. L., no longer pressed by a stern necessity, will refuse to suffer the wages of iniquity to darken and poison the holy stream of charity that flows from the pure well-springs of Masonic faith and love. It is high time that the desecration of a Masonic Hall should cease; and we the more earnestly press upon the G. L. the proposed scheme, because it must necessarily restore the property of the Order to high and holy uses.

That the G. L. is able to execute the design now presented to its consideration, is made obvious by the following statement:—

The whole indebtedness of the Grand Lodge consists of—

Mortgage, &c., upon Chestnut street Hall,	\$60,000 00
“ “ Third street Hall,	12,166 66
Gas Loan, and V. Pippin's Note,	2,271 16
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	74,437 82
From this deduct Sinking Fund,	27,458 00
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	46,979 82
Deduct value of Third street Hall,	28,000 00
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Balance of debt of Grand Lodge,	\$18,979 82
The income of the G. L., exclusive of rent of the old Hall, is a little over	\$11,000 00
The current expenses, including interest, are about	5,000 00
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Leaving a net annual balance of	\$6,000 00
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To this add the additional receipts of the present year, which are about \$1000, and we have an annual excess of \$7000.

To enable the G. L. to build a new Hall, there will be a balance from the sale of the Third street Hall, of about thirteen thousand dollars, which, with one year's net excess, will be amply sufficient for that purpose.

The increase in the receipts from Masonic sources is, for this year, about one thousand dollars. The new impulse given by a new Hall, centrally placed, may favor the ratio of augmentation; but whether so or not, the G. L. is in a condition financially strong, and growing stronger, so that there exists no good reason for denying to the Masens of Pennsylvania a place of resort commensurate with the dignity of the Order, and adequate to the wants of a growing Fraternity.

Without wishing to dictate to the G. L., which is of course better able than we to judge upon the subject, the Committee thought it would illustrate more clearly the feasibility of the construction of a new edifice, to exhibit at least one plan of a building of suitable dimensions, falling within the estimated cost. The plan is herewith presented.

J. K. MITCHELL,
ANTHONY BOURNONVILLE,
PETER WILLIAMSON,
WM. S. SHULTZ,
JOHN ALLEN.

After the adoption of the report of the special Committee, the following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted, to be submitted to the Grand Lodge for their approval, to wit:—

Resolved, That the Rt. W. G. Master be authorized to procure plans and estimates for the re-construction of the Chestnut street Hall, which shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge for their approval, at a future meeting.

The several reports of the two sub and special Committees, go so fully into the detail of the matter referred to us, that we do not deem it necessary to add thereto, further than to say that your Committee are fully of the opinion, that, as soon as proper plans and estimates can be procured, and submitted to this Grand Lodge for their approval, the vast interests of this Grand Lodge, as well as that of the craft in general under her jurisdiction, will be greatly promoted by carrying out the plan now recommended.

It must be evident to all, that the room we now occupy, is wholly inadequate to the suitable accommodation of the present members of the G. Lodge. If therefore, that is the case now, what will it be in a few years more, when, beyond all question the members will greatly outnumber those of the present day. In view of these facts as set forth your Committee would recommend the adoption of the report and the resolution annexed thereto. All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM WHITNEY,
JAMES HUTCHINSON,
JOHN THOMSON,
J. K. MITCHELL,
C. C. WILLIAMS,

ANTHONY BOURNONVILLE,
PETER WILLIAMSON,
WILLIAM H. ADAMS,
JOHN ALLEN,
WM. S. SHULTZ,

JOHN C. YEAGER.

Philadelphia, May, 1851.

On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted, viz:—

Resolved, That the report of the Committee of thirteen on the new Hall be printed in pamphlet form, under the supervision of the Committee, and that a copy be furnished to each member of the Grand Lodge, and transmitted to each subordinate Lodge, at least six weeks before the next Grand Quarterly Communication.

Extract from the minutes.

WILLIAM H. ADAMS, G. S.

